UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/058,082	01/29/2002	Keisuke Kataoka	218916US2	2518

22850 7590 03/09/2007 OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314	**EXAMINER**	
	HAMZA, FARUK	
	ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
	2155	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/09/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/058,082	KATAOKA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Faruk Hamza	2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *19 January 2007*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-18* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) *19 and 20* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-18* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____.

Response to Amendment

1.   This action is responsive to the amendment filed on January 19, 2007.

Claims 19-20 have been canceled. Claims 1-18 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for

all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2.   Claims 1-2,9-10 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Klung et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,790,785) hereinafter

referred as Klung and further in view of Nielsen et al. (U.S. Patent Number

5,948,054) hereinafter referred as Nielsen.

Klung teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a world

wide web registration processing system for assisting world wide web users in

registering world wide web website (See abstract).

As to claim 1, Klung teaches a server device comprising:

a user-information storage section which stores in advance user

information regarding at least one user to be a new member of a system (Fig. 1,

Klung discloses user-information storage section);

a communications section which sends and receives predetermined

information to and from at least one user terminal through a communications

network (Fig. 1, Klung discloses communication section sending and receiving

information through communications netowrk);

an input-form sender which sends input-form information for inputting ID

(identification) information for identifying said at least one user in a

predetermined ID-form, to said at least one user terminal through said

communications section (Fig. 2A, Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19, Klung

discloses input-form sender which sends input-form);

an ID-information receiver which receives the ID information from said at

least one user terminal through said communications section, in association with

said input-form information sent by said input-form sender (Fig. 2B, Column 4,

lines 24-Column 8, lines19, Klung discloses ID-information receiver which

receives ID information);

an information acquirer which acquires the user information corresponding

to said at least one user from said user-information storage section, in

association with the ID information received by said ID-information receiver

(Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19, Klung discloses information acquirer

which acquires the user informaiton);

a member-form sender which (1) sets the user information acquired by

said information acquirer in member-form information used for inputting member

information to generate thereby member form information having at least part of

the member information set therein, and (2) sends the generated member form

information to said at least one user terminal through said communications

section (Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19, Klung discloses setting user

information acquired by said information acquirer);

a member-information receiver which receives the member information,

sent from said at least one user terminal in association with said user information

and member-form information sent by said member-form sender, through said

communications section (Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19, Klung discloses

member-information receiver which receives the member information); and

a member-information storage section which stores the member

information received by said member-information receiver (Column 4, lines 24-

Column 8, lines19, Klung discloses member-information storage section which

stores the member information).

Klung does not explicitly teach the claim limitation of storage section for

storing staff information in association with user information.

However, Nielsen teaches the claim limitation of storage section for

storing staff information (consultant information) in association with user

information (Column 5, lines 51-Column 6, lines 5).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time

of the invention to modify Klung by adding storing section for storing staff

information, which will allow the system to easily access, manage and update

staff information. One would be motivated to do to enhance system's

performance.

As to claim 2, Klung teaches a server device comprising:

a user-information storage section which stores in advance user

information regarding at least one user to be a new member of a system (Fig. 1);

a communications section which sends and receives predetermined

information to and from at least one user terminal and at least one sales-staff

terminal which are connected with each other through a communications network

(Fig. 1);

an input-form sender which sends input-form information for inputting ID

information for identifying said at least one user in a predetermined ID-input form,

to said at least one user terminal through said communications section (Column

4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19);

an ID-information receiver which receives the ID information sent from

said at least one user terminal in association with the input-form information sent

by said input-form sender, through said communications section (Column 4, lines

24-Column 8, lines19);

an information acquirer which acquires the user information corresponding to said at least one user from said user-information storage section, in association with the ID information received by said ID-information receiver (Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19);

a member-form sender which (1) sets the user information acquired by said information acquirer in member-form information used for inputting member information to generate thereby member form information having at least part of the member information set therein, and (2) sends the generated member form information to the at least one user terminal through said communications section (Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19);

a member-information receiver which receives the member information, sent from said at least one user terminal in association with the user information and the member-form information sent by said member-form sender, through said communications section (Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19);

a member-information storage section which stores the member information received by said member-information receiver (Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19); and

a member-information sender which sends the member information received by said member-information receiver to said at least one sales-staff terminal through said communications section (Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19).

Klung does not explicitly teach the claim limitation of storage section for storing staff information in association with user information.

However, Nielsen teaches the claim limitation of storage section for storing staff information (consultant information) in association with user information (Column 5, lines 51-Column 6, lines 5).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Klung by adding storing section for storing staff information, which will allow the system to easily access, manage and update staff information. One would be motivated to do to enhance system's performance.

As to claim 9, Klung teaches a method for supporting member registration, comprising the steps of:

sending input-form information for inputting ID information for identifying at least one user, to at least one user terminal through a communications network (Fig. 2A, Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19);

receiving the ID information sent from said at least one user terminal in association with the input-form information sent at said step of sending the input-form information (Fig. 2B, Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19);

acquiring user information corresponding to said at least one user in association with the ID information received at said step of receiving the ID information, from a first storage section which stores in advance the user

information regarding the at least one user to be a new member of a system (Fig.
3, Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19);

setting the user information acquired by said information acquirer in
member-form information used for inputting member information in a
predetermined member form to generate thereby member form information
having at least part of the member information set therein, and sending the
generated member form information to said at least one user terminal (Column 4,
lines 24-Column 8, lines19);

receiving the member information sent from said at least one user terminal
in association with the member-form information and user information sent at
said step of sending the member form (Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19);
and

storing the member information received at said step of receiving the
member information, in a second storage section storing information regarding at
least one member (Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19).

Klung does not explicitly teach the claim limitation of storage section for
storing staff information in association with user information.

However, Nielsen teaches the claim limitation of storage section for
storing staff information (consultant information) in association with user
information (Column 5, lines 51-Column 6, lines 5).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time
of the invention to modify Klung by adding storing section for storing staff

information, which will allow the system to easily access, manage and update staff information. One would be motivated to do to enhance system's performance.

As to claim 10, Klung teaches a method for supporting member registration, comprising

sending input-form information for inputting ID information for identifying at least one user in a predetermined ID form, to at least one user terminal through a communications network (Fig. 2A, Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19);

receiving the ID information sent from said at least one user terminal in association with the input-form information sent at said step of sending the input-form information (Fig. 2B, Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19);

acquiring user information corresponding to said at least one user terminal in association with the ID information received at said step of receiving the ID information, from a first storage section which stores in advance the user information regarding said at least one user to be a new member of a system (Fig. 3, Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19);

setting the user information acquired by said information acquirer in member-form information used for inputting member information to generate thereby member form information having at least part of the member information set therein and sending the generated member form information to said at least one user terminal (Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19);

receiving the member information sent from said at least one user terminal

in association with the member-form information and user information sent at

said step of sending the member-form information (Column 4, lines 24-Column 8,

lines19);

storing the member information received at said step of receiving the

member information, in a second storage section storing information regarding at

least one member (Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19); and

sending member information received at said step of receiving the

member information, to at least one sales-staff terminal through a

communications network (Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19).

Klung does not explicitly teach the claim limitation of storage section for

storing staff information in association with user information.

However, Nielsen teaches the claim limitation of storage section for

storing staff information (consultant information) in association with user

information (Column 5, lines 51-Column 6, lines 5).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time

of the invention to modify Klung by adding storing section for storing staff

information, which will allow the system to easily access, manage and update

staff information. One would be motivated to do to enhance system's

performance.

As to claim 17, Klung teaches a computer readable recording medium recording a program for controlling a computer to execute a method for supporting member registration, and said method comprising the steps of:

sending input-form information for inputting ID information for identifying at least one user, to at least one user terminal through a communications network (Fig. 2A, Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19);

receiving the ID information sent from said at least one user terminal in association with the input-form information sent at said step of sending the input-form information (Fig. 2B, Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19);

acquiring user information corresponding to said at least one user in association with the ID information received at said step of receiving the ID information, from a first storage section which stores in advance the user information regarding the at least one user to be a new member of a system (Fig. 3, Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19);

setting the user information acquired by said information acquirer in member-form information used for inputting member information to generate thereby member form information having at least part of the member information set therein and sending the generated member form information to said at least one user terminal (Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19);

receiving the member information sent from said at least one user terminal in association with the member-form information and user information sent in

said step of sending the member form (Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19);

and

storing the member information received in said step of receiving the

member information, in a second storage section storing information regarding at

least one member (Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19).

Klung does not explicitly teach the claim limitation of storage section for

storing staff information in association with user information.

However, Nielsen teaches the claim limitation of storage section for

storing staff information (consultant information) in association with user

information (Column 5, lines 51-Column 6, lines 5).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time

of the invention to modify Klung by adding storing section for storing staff

information, which will allow the system to easily access, manage and update

staff information. One would be motivated to do to enhance system's

performance.

As to claim 18, Klung teaches a computer readable recording medium

recording a program for controlling a computer to execute a method for

supporting member registration, and said method comprising the steps of:

sending input-form information for inputting ID information for identifying at

least one user in a predetermined ID form, to at least one user terminal through a

communications network (Fig. 2A, Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19);

receiving the ID information sent form said at least one user terminal in association with the input-form information sent at said step of sending the input-form information (Fig. 2B, Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19);

acquiring user information corresponding to said at least one user terminal in association with the ID information received at said step of receiving the ID information, from a first storage section which stores in advance the user information regarding said at least one user to be a new member of a system (Fig. 3, Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19);

setting the user information acquired by said information acquirer in member-form information used for inputting member information to generate thereby member form information having at least part of the member information set therein and sending the generated member form information to said at least one user terminal (Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19);

receiving the member information sent from said at least one user terminal in association with the member-form information and user information sent at said step of sending the member-form information (Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19);

storing the member information received in said step of receiving the member information, in a second storage section storing information regarding at least one member (Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19); and

sending member information received in said step of receiving the

member information, to at least one sales-staff terminal through a

communications network (Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19).

Klung does not explicitly teach the claim limitation of storage section for

storing staff information in association with user information.

.However, Nielsen teaches the claim limitation of storage section for.

storing staff information (consultant information) in association with user

information (Column 5, lines 51-Column 6, lines 5).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time

of the invention to modify Klung by adding storing section for storing staff

information, which will allow the system to easily access, manage and update

staff information. One would be motivated to do to enhance system's

performance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for

all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3.   Claims 3-8 and 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Klung and Nielsen as applied above, and further in view of

Harvey et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,487,583) hereinafter referred as Harvey.

As to claim 3, Klung and Nielsen teach the server device according to claim 2, wherein:

each of said input-form sender and said member-form sender sends a Web page the includes form information to said at least one user terminal (Klung, Column 4, lines 24-Column 8, lines19); and

Klung and Nielsen do not explicitly teach the claimed limitation of sending member information by e-mail.

However, Harvey teaches the claimed limitation of sending member information by e-mail (Column 16, lines 7-15).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Klung and Nielsen by adding e-mail functionality, which will provide flexibility and ease communications. One would be motivated to do so to enhance the system's usability.

Claim 11 does not teach or define any new limitation other than above claim 3 and therefore is rejected for similar reasons.

As to claim 4, Klung and Nielsen teach the server device according to claim 2, further comprising:

a staff-information storage section which stores information regarding at least one sales staff, in association with the user information stored in said user-

information storage section (Nielsen, Column 2, lines 65-Column 3, lines 6,

Column 5, lines 51-Column 6, lines 5), and

said information acquirer acquires the user information corresponding to

the at least one user from said user-information storage section, and acquires the

information regarding said at least one sales staff from said staff-information

storage section (Nielsen, Column 5, lines 51-Column 6, lines 5), and

said member-information sender sets, as addressee, an e-mail address

included in the information regarding said at least one sales staff and acquired by

said information acquirer (Column 8, lines 1-19, Column 9, lines 29-Column 10,

lines 30).

Klung and Nielsen do not explicitly teach the claimed limitation of sending

member information by e-mail.

However, Harvey teaches the claimed limitation of sending member

information by e-mail (Column 16, lines 7-15).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

the invention to modify Klung and Nielsen by adding e-mail functionality, which

will provide flexibility and ease communications. One would be motivated to do

so to enhance the system's usability.

Claims 5 and 12-13 do not teach or define any new limitation other than

above claim 4 and therefore are rejected for similar reasons.

As to claim 6, Klung and Nielsen teach the server device according to claim 2, further comprising:

a confirmation-form sender which sends confirmation-form information for confirming whether to send the member information received by said member-information receiver to said at least one sales staff, to said at least one user terminal through said communications section (Klung, Column 9, lines 29-Column 10, lines 30); and

a confirmation-information receiver which receives confirmation information sent from said at least one user terminal in association with the confirmation-form information sent by said confirmation-form sender, through said communications section (Klung, Column 9, lines 29-Column 10, lines 30), and

Klung and Nielsen do not explicitly teach the claimed limitation of sending member information by e-mail.

However, Harvey teaches the claimed limitation of sending member information by e-mail (Column 16, lines 7-15).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Klung and Nielsen by adding e-mail functionality, which will provide flexibility and ease communications. One would be motivated to do so to enhance the system's usability.

Claims 7,8 and14-16 do not teach or define any new limitation other than above claim 6 and therefore are rejected for similar reasons.

4.   **Examiner's Note:** Examiner has cited particular columns and line

numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of

the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings

of the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim,

other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from

the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in its

entirety as potentially teaching of all or part of the claimed invention, as well as

the context.

Response to Arguments

5.   Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not

persuasive.

In the remarks applicant argues in substance that; A) Combination of

Klung and Nielsen do not teach " a staff information storage section which stores

staff information regarding at least ones sales staff in association with user

information stored in the user stored in the user information storage section".

In response to A) Applicant is reminded that claim limitation must be given

their reasonable broadest interpretation. Claim language merely recites staff

information and user information. It failed to provide any details or specific about

information. Nielsen teaches database storing consultant (staff) and customer

(user) information (See Column 4, lines 66-Column 5, lines 4;Fig.2, Column 5,

lines 51-Column 6, lines 5). Klung also teaches storage section for storing user information (See Fig.1). Therefore combined teaching of Klung and Nielsen meet the claim limitation.

Conclusion

5.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Faruk Hamza whose telephone number is 571-272-7969. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached at 571-272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 886-217-9197 (toll –free).

Faruk Hamza

Patent Examiner

Group Art Unite 2155

/SALEH NAJJAR

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER